

## SECTION 7- PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

### I. GENERAL.

DHCN is legally responsible for reporting certain infectious diseases to the State of Virginia Health department and to the office of the Surgeon General. Reporting at DHCN is accomplished through the Preventive Medicine Service. Prompt reporting will allow investigation when warranted and initiation of control measures in the hospital and community to stop transmission.

### II. SPECIFIC. Reporting Hospital Admissions of Communicable Diseases:

A. In the event that a patient is admitted with suspected or known communicable disease, the physician responsible for admission or the nurse in charge of the admission will notify the HICO. Questions concerning isolation precautions in the hospital shall be referred to the HICO. On weekends and evenings after 1700, contact the HICO via Blackberry at 703-415-6089 or Outlook Email. A link to guidelines for isolation for disease specific is located with this manual on the DHCN Internet. <http://www.dewitt.wramc.amedd.army.mil/Infection%20Control/Index.htm>

B. The HICO will verify the diagnosis and record the incident. The Preventive Medicine Officer or his/her designee will then be notified to initiate community contact follow-up and reporting to public health authorities and the Office of the Surgeon General.

C. A contact list of all employees, including pre and post-hospital care-providers (if known) with significant exposure to the infected patient will be forwarded to the Occupational Health physician. The physician will:

1. Determine risk
2. Identify any necessary testing
3. Define appropriate follow-up to include possible work restrictions, and treatment required.

D. If the diagnosis of a communicable disease is made after the patient is transported to another healthcare facility or to mortuary services, the HICO will make every attempt to notify the appropriate persons or personnel of the exposure. If the health care personnel are not eligible for treatment in the DHCN they will be advised by Preventive Medicine Service of the need to see their private physician as soon as possible.

E. If the index case is an employee, a list of patients exposed to the employee will be made and the attending physicians will be notified by the HICO. If the patients have been discharged to home, community follow-up will be initiated by the Preventive Medicine Service.

F. Those diseases suspected of being linked to blood transfusions (including but not limited to: Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, CMV, HIV, and acute liver failure within six months of transfusion) shall be reported by the HICO to the Chairman of the Tissue and Transfusion Committee.

G. In addition to the specified diseases which require reporting (section 9), reportable outbreaks (clusters of diseases of public health significance that are related to one another and exceed the number normally expected) must also be reported. Examples of reportable diseases include the following:

Hepatitis outbreaks	Occupationally related illnesses
Fevers of unknown origin	Food or water borne outbreaks
Nosocomial infections	Case clusters of aseptic meningitis
Deaths due to acute infectious or parasitic disease	
Deaths due to prion disease	
Acute respiratory disease outbreaks including viral exanthema	
Like-syndrome illnesses	

H. Information required for reporting is diagnosis, date of onset, name of the patient, age, address, ward if hospitalized and attending physician. Reports may be made telephonically to Preventive Medicine Service at 805-0523.